



# Montgomery County Council

*From the Office of Councilmember Mike Knapp*

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **KNAPP TESTIFIES FOR SATELLITE EMERGENCY FACILITY**

***Urge swift action in appearance before Finance Committee***

ANNAPOLIS – Appearing before the Maryland State Senate Finance Committee, Councilmember Mike Knapp today appealed to the State Legislature to immediately approve legislation that would allow for completion of the Shady Grove Satellite Emergency Facility at Germantown.

“It should have been a no-brainer for the Maryland Health Care Commission to approve the application for the facility,” Knapp said in his testimony. “But when the application was denied, we were left with no other choice but to appeal to you in helping fix what should never have been broken in the first place.”

Knapp testified in support of SB 231 and HB 426, each of which would allow the Germantown facility to be built without a Certificate of Need. Last September, the Maryland Health Care Commission refused to provide a certificate of need when it denied the application submitted by Shady Grove Adventist Hospital for creating an emergency satellite facility in Germantown.

In his testimony, Knapp pointed out that the rapidly growing population of the Upcounty and the congested routes from the

Upcounty to Rockville had strained the ability of the Shady Grove facility to adequately meet the needs of county residents.

“By 2010, it’s estimated that the Upcounty will have 163,000 residents – and the only emergency facility they have, at the moment, is in Rockville,” Knapp said. “Geographically, there are only four roads that connect the Upcounty to the facility at Shady Grove. The largest, I-270, is also one of the most congested in the State of Maryland. Putting a fully-functional facility in Germantown would alleviate both problems associated with the Shady Grove site.”

Knapp traveled to Annapolis with other residents who support the new facility, and said he shared their frustrations with the decision of the Maryland Health Care Commission to deny the application for the new facility.

“We shouldn’t be here today,” Knapp told the committee. “This matter could have been taken care of administratively. I’m sorry it was left to the legislature to do what the Health Care Commission wouldn’t.”

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